



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Saguaro National Park 3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

520-733-5100 phone
520-733-5183 fax

Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2011

Contacts: Saguaro East - Melanie Florez (520) 733-5153
Saguaro West - Richard Hill (520) 733-5158

April Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

April 1 and 8 5:00 p.m. Silhouettes at Sundown 2½ hours, 2½ mile hike

Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. Reservations are required, please call 733-5158.

April 12 3:15 p.m. Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike 6½ to 7 hours, 8 miles

This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360° view of the sunset; then descend by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered difficult due to the elevation gain and hiking after dark. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

April 14 4:30 p.m. Sunset Hike 3½ mile hike

This 3½-hour hike climbs 700 feet (with some switchbacks) before reaching a beautiful ridgeline for the sunset. The descent is by the light of the moon. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

April 15 3:00 p.m. Arts & Culture of Ancient So. AZ Hohokam Indians 1 hour Illustrated Talk

Allen Dart, Executive Director of the Old Pueblo Archaeology Center illustrates the material culture of the Hohokam and presents possible interpretations about their relationships to the natural world, their time reckoning, religious practices, beliefs, and deities and possible reasons for the eventual demise of their way of life.

April 15 5:15 p.m. Moon Take Night Make Day 2½ mile hike

Hikers on this gentle, relatively flat 3-hour hike travel up a desert wash during the transition from day to night, enjoy the sunset atop a hill, then return under the moonlight. Reservations are required, please call 733-5158.

April 16 2:00 p.m. Status of Saguaros and Wildlife in SNP 1 hour illustrated talk

Saguaro National Park biologist Don Swann will update us on interesting wildlife observations from the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West), and the health of our saguaro population. He will also touch on the BioBlitz coming this fall. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 17 7:30 p.m. Moonrise Over the Mountains 45 minute patio talk

Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 23 2:30 p.m. Saguaro Book Club 90 minute discussion

Janice Emily Bowder's book, "Mountains Next Door," is the April book for Saguaro Book Club, which will meet in the Environmental Education Building at Saguaro West. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

-more-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

April 2 and 16 2:00 p.m. Desert Discovery 2 mile hike

Join a park naturalist on this two-hour, 2-mile walk to discover the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

April 3 and 17 11:00 a.m. The Places in Between auditorium presentation

With human populations still on the rise, the wide open spaces available for protection are shrinking. Join park staff in the visitor center auditorium to find out about on-going efforts to ensure that critical migratory links remain intact. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 3, 17 & 24 2:00 p.m. Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro? ¼ mile walk

Change is coming to the Cactus Forest and we can't do anything about it! But don't worry – change has been happening here for thousands of years. Come explore the life cycles of the saguaro cactus and the changing face of its Sonoran Desert home on this ¼ mile, 90-minute walk.

April 5 and 12 2:30 p.m. Reptiles 101 auditorium presentation

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians meet the surprise guests! *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 5, 6 & 13 9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike 4 mile hike

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this three-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

April 6 and 27 2:00 p.m. With or Without Water easy 2 mile hike

Join park staff on a two-mile, 2-hour hike to discover how seasonal rains impact Saguaro National Park and you.

April 6 7:00 p.m. Star Party

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

April 8 and 22 7:00 p.m. Night Walk 1 mile hike

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu
www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.